

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims of the present application as set forth below.

In accordance with the PTO's revised amendment format, a detailed listing of all claims has been provided. A status identifier is provided for each claim in a parenthetical expression following each claim number. Changes to the claims are shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) or underlining (for added matter).

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Claims 1-34 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

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Claims 35-55 are added.

Accordingly, following entry of the present amendment claims 35-55 are pending.

Claims 1-34: Canceled

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35. (New) A method for downloading firmware to at least one of a plurality of storage devices in a computing system having at least one client connected to a server, the method comprising:

- 5 receiving, at a client, from the server, a first list of storage devices connected to the storage system;
- receiving, from a user, a second list of storage devices selected from the first list of storage devices;
- validating at least one storage device on the second list of storage devices;
- 10 transferring a firmware file to at least one agent on the server; and instructing the at least one agent on the server to download the firmware to the at least one storage device.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein receiving, from a user, a second list of storage devices selected from the first list of storage devices comprises:

- 15 querying the user for a password;
- receiving, in response to the query, a password from the user; and comparing the password to a password stored in a header of the
- 20 firmware file to validate the user.

37. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein receiving, from a user, a second list of storage devices selected from the first list of storage devices

25 comprises displaying the first list of storage devices to the user in a user interface that enables the user to select at least one storage device from the first list of storage devices.

38. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein validating at least one

30 storage device on the second list of storage devices comprises comparing an inquiry string from the firmware file with an inquiry string from a firmware file resident on a storage device on the second list of storage devices.

39. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein validating at least one storage device on the second list of storage devices comprises determining whether the at least one storage device is capable of implementing a firmware update.

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40. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein validating at least one storage device on the second list of storage devices comprises storing a device identifier associated with a validated device in a data field in the firmware file.

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41. (New) The method of claim 35, further comprising removing from the second list of storage devices a storage device that cannot be validated.

42. (New) The method of claim 35, further comprising removing from the second list of storage devices a storage device that cannot be updated.

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43. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein transferring a firmware file to at least one agent on the server comprises transferring a firmware file that includes instructions for downloading the firmware file from the agent to the storage device.

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44. (New) A method for downloading firmware to at least one of a plurality of storage devices in a computing system having at least one client connected to a server, the method comprising:

5 receiving at a server, a request from a client to update firmware on one or more storage devices in the computer system;

transmitting from the server to the client a first list of storage devices visible to the server;

10 receiving from the client a second list of storage devices including at least one storage device from the first list of storage devices, a firmware file, and an instruction to download the firmware file to at least one storage device on the second list of storage devices; and

initiating a process to download the firmware file to the at least one storage device on the second list of storage devices.

15 45. (New) The method of claim 44, further comprising:

instantiating an agent on the server; and

registering the agent with an agent manager.

20 46. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the agent manager periodically pings the agent instantiated on the server, and un-registers the agent if the agent is unavailable.

25 47. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein receiving, from a client, a request to update firmware on one or more storage devices in the computer system comprises:

validating the client with the agent manager; and

establishing a communication connection between the agent and an applet executing on the client.

30 48. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein transmitting from the server to the client a first list of storage devices visible to the server comprises identifying storage devices visible to the server.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein identifying storage devices visible to the server comprises scanning a peripheral bus.

50. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein initiating a process to  
5 download the firmware file to the at least one storage device on the second list of storage devices comprises:

retrieving, from the received firmware file, a series of commands for  
downloading the firmware file to a storage device; and  
executing the series of commands.

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51. (New) The method of claim 44, further comprising downloading the  
firmware file in fixed-length increments contemporaneously to multiple  
storage devices.

52. (New) The method of claim 44, further comprising locking the storage  
15 device during the firmware download process.

53. (New) The method of claim 44, further comprising verifying the  
firmware download.

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54. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein verifying the firmware  
download comprises:

retrieving a data field from the firmware file downloaded to the at least  
one storage device; and

25 comparing the retrieved data field to a corresponding data field in the  
firmware file received from the client.

55. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the agent monitors a storage  
device and reports a storage device status change to a client.

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